



IOWA COUNCIL FOR EARLY ACCESS

November 18, 2005

Minutes

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Des Moines Botanical Center – Oak Room

Members attending

Cathy Ryba
Robert Bacon
Kyla Alba
Angela Burke Boston
Jane Borst
Mary Jane Brotherson
Nick Burnett
LaMark Combs
Michael Fay
Glenn Grove
Kelly Hancock
Jeff Lobas

Jan Mackey
Troy McCarthy
Barbara Merrill
Royann Mraz
Carolyn Nelson
Pamela Parker
Maureen Schletzbaum
Debra Sixta
Carrie Sodders
Greg Titus
Lana Michelson
Jim Overland

Members Excused

Scott Beall
Glenn Baughman

Staff Attending

Julie Curry
Kay Leeper
Barbara Ohlund
LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl
Kelly Schulte
Michael Baldwin

Handouts

- *Our Family Story*
- *Poem "I am the Child" author unknown*
- *Impact of Iowa not applying for and receiving IDEA Part C Grant*
- *Attachment A: Recommendations to Lead Agency from ICEA regarding the content of the Six Year State Performance Plan*
- *Building Linkages with Constituencies*
- *Brochure: Natural Environments and the least restrictive environment*

- Brochure: *Do you have questions about your child's growth or development* (English and Spanish)

Call to Order/Approval of Minutes/Attendance

The meeting was brought to order by Chair Cathy Ryba. The minutes were approved as mailed. There was a quorum. New member LaMark Combs was introduced. LaMark is a member at large from Scott County. He has five children and works in Corrections.

Family Story Kelly Hancock

Kelly Hancock presented the story of her family struggles finding out that their child had special needs and how to work within the system to get the services they needed. She shared that her child was in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) for 3 weeks after she was born and was connected to Early ACCESS within two months.

Kelly and her husband appreciated coordination among the different service providers. For example; 1) the hospital connected her to Early ACCESS service coordinator; and 2) CHSC Family Nurse Practitioner provided a developmental assessment and AEA psychologist's evaluation provided required information for eligibility of the DHS Waiver program.

Kelly's family observed and appreciated how much the IFSP team was family-centered and were focused on enhancing the capacity of the family to meet their daughter's needs. She noted that they attended to the family's needs, not just their daughter's.

Kelly gave us her wish list for the Early ACCESS:

- Family-centered services
- Confidentiality
- Respecting the family's culture
- Understanding it is hard to let people into our lives.

Lead Agency Update Lana Michelson/Julie Curry

Lana Michelson discussed a change in the due process procedures under IDEA regarding the burden of proof. This change is the result of a ruling in a recent court case. Now the burden of proof resides with the party filing the complaint. Formerly the Agency named in the complaint was responsible for proving that services were delivered. This is a significant shift in due process procedures.

Julie Curry shared a letter that was received from OSEP stating that Iowa is now in compliance with all areas that were cited in June 2002. The Council celebrated the successes of the past three years that lead us to compliance, and Julie Curry thanked the Council for all their guidance and assistance throughout the process.

Julie Curry highlighted the current new products of Early ACCESS available for review on the Early ACCESS display table. These included three new brochures, one for marketing Early ACCESS, a second describing Natural Environments, and a third enumerating Family Centered Practice Principles. The later was developed by SCRIPT (a group of professionals organized around pre-service training). Julie also discussed the new concept for the Early ACCESS display board. The mock up of the board was made available for Council review and comment.

Review and comment on the draft of the Six Year State Performance Plan Barbara Ohlund

The Council continued to assist the Lead Agency to prepare the Six Year State Performance Plan by providing comment on the draft of the State Performance Plan (see attached recommendations).

Lana Michelson thanked the Council for the work done at the September meeting toward development of the six-year plan. Activities recommended were critical to the building of the plan. Since the September meeting of the Council, the Department has been visiting with each Regional Grantee throughout in the state seeking comment on the data for the system outcomes. Grantees are key to providing the data for the outcomes and to implementation of the plan. Their input was critical at this juncture.

The Power Point presentation of the outcomes and the plan will be available for the Council to use with their constituents once it is complete. Outcomes will be reported publicly for each AEA (refer to Handout). Barbara Ohlund reviewed how the power point is arranged. The outcomes are prescribed by the Federal Government with the targets set by Iowa. The next part of the power point looks at the trajectory for the six years of the plan plus the strategy. To make systems change requires at least six years. During that time the Lead Agency will monitor the outcomes and, with the help of the Council, make adjustments to the plan. Regardless, Iowa will stay the course specified in the plan for six years. At this point we need to give strong rationale for the targets and why strategies are lined up the way they are.

Lana Michelson explained that at this point data for timely evaluation does not include enough cases. The Department does not believe Early ACCESS is as far out of compliance as it shows in the data. The Department is confident that we can improve the numbers.

Compliance is now based on outcomes and results, not processes. This data will measure what we do the next six years. We will use it to make change in processes based on our monitoring.

Report of the study regarding the impact of possible non participation in Part C (Tabled from September 2005 meeting). Cathy Ryba

Cathy Ryba led a discussion on the regional, state and system level issues regarding not participating in the federal Part C program and, instead, operating Early ACCESS services under IDEA Part B as a "Birth Mandate." She also presented the possible impact on children and families of such an action (refer to handout *Impact of Iowa not applying for and receiving Part C funds, July 2005*). This issue is a follow up to a request by the Council at the May meeting. The Executive Committee studied the issue over the summer months. Iowa receives \$3.8 million in federal funds for carrying out the responsibilities of IDEA, Part C.

The Council questioned whether we could continue to provide the services under Iowa's Part B birth mandate without a loss of services to children. Federal special education dollars come from three funding sources under IDEA: Part B 619 (three to five year old education); Part B 611 (B-21), and Part D (personnel development). Part D may be cut this year to channel those dollars to the Iraqi War and Hurricane Katrina reconstruction. This means there will be no money to continue to backfill the services. Iowa must rely more on Part B dollars to pay for services. If Congress makes a 2% cut across the board, there will not be enough dollars to support state administration and local services at the same level. No action was taken as result of this discussion. The application for IDEA Part C will move forward as required.

Building linkages with your constituency. Kay Leeper

Kay Leeper led a discussion on the importance of maintaining contact with member constituencies between meetings (refer to handout *Building Linkages with Constituencies*). Constituency building is one of the most significant contributions that each council member can make to the Council. It broadens the perspective of the comments and decisions of the group. This is a key strategy to assist the lead agency in achieving the full participation, coordination, and cooperation of all appropriate public and *private* agencies in the state to carry out its responsibilities of Part C. Working with constituencies is also critical to receiving input on the preparation of Part C applications and amendments to those applications.

Resources available for constituency building include reports of the council, the display board for conferences, or various power point presentations on issues discussed at meetings. Also members were encouraged to use the Agenda for each Council meeting as a guide to discuss with constituents to get input before and after the meeting. The handout *Ways to link with Council Activities with Your Constituency* was also reviewed. Council members shared successful activities they have used to work with their constituency. Members were asked to review the handout, and find an opportunity to use one of the suggested ways with their constituents before the Jan. council meeting, at which time those activities will be shared.

Report of Bylaws Committee. Debra Sixta, Chair of the By laws Committee

Debra Sixta presented the report of the Bylaws Committee. The recommended changes to the Bylaws were mailed 30 days prior to meeting for member review. The ICEA Bylaws were changed to be compliant with IDEA 2004. Most changes occurred in the Membership section to add new member constituencies. The conflict of interest statement was also changed to meet the IDEA 2004. There were a few additional changes throughout that improved clarity of intent. Nick Burnett moved and Kyla Alba seconded a motion for approval of the Bylaws changes as submitted. The motion passed.

Appointment and charge for committees of the ICEA. Cathy Ryba

Cathy Ryba reviewed the ICEA committee appointments, responsibilities and charge. The Membership committee will begin work in January by reviewing who will be leaving the council and getting a sense of which constituency groups will need to be recruited for 2007. The Nominating committee will not meet until August. A governor's report is not required in the form it has been in the past. The Governor's Report committee will meet to discuss how communication with the Governor's office should occur this year.

Sharing of activities and information from constituents. All members

Barb Merrill shared that the Directory of Early Childhood programs can now be accessed at iowaheadstart.org. She announced that the Early Childhood Day on the Hill is in February. Please encourage your constituents to participate.

Carolyn Nelson announced that she is now co-chair of the Maternal and Child Health Section of the Iowa Public Health Association. She requested members share with her any issues that could use IPHA support.

Carolyn Soddors reported that Head Start going through a federal monitoring process this year.

Pam Parker recently spoke to local high school students who are young parents about Early ACCESS. The presentation was well received.

Jane Borst reported on the Child Health Forum, *Off to a Good Start*, on October 27th. This was a meeting for Iowa policymakers to discuss healthy development in relationship to Iowa's desired results for children, birth to five. The meeting began with a talk by Shelley Ackermann, parent of a child with a disability and Early ACCESS consultant, giving a parents perspective about living with a child with a disability. The meeting highlighted the system policies that worked and what didn't work. Several legislators attended the meeting to get broad perspective of the issues. There was also good participation from the Iowa Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The take away message was there is a need for Iowa to develop one state policy for early childhood.

Jim Overland talked about the status of the 3% Medicaid rate increase. This is an amendment to the Iowa Medicaid State Plan and must be approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). Jim explained that normally it is a "routine" activity to increase rates. This was to take effect July 1, 2005, but has still not been approved. On day 84 of the CMS request, Iowa received a response seeking response to multiple questions related to things that Medicaid is doing unrelated to the rate increase. CMS is trying to identify how to remove fraud and waste from Medicaid. It is reflective of the political climate. While this issue plays out, providers are still not being reimbursed at the higher rate for Medicaid services.

Members shared experience with a successful strategy used to increase awareness of legislators about family issues. One county set up an "adopt a family" with legislators for a week to build knowledge about an issue. The legislator had to live on the budget of the government aid recipient. The program matched a legislator with a family. The family member in turn worked with the legislator to see how difficult it is to change policy.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

The next meeting will be January 20, 2006 at the Oak Room of the Des Moines Botanical Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

ICEA input * on final draft of 6-year Part C State Performance Plan November 18, 2005

Indicator 1: Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who receive the early intervention services on their IFSPs in a timely manner.

The Council recommended the following strategy (in italics) replace the draft strategy: *The Lead Agency will analyze all instances where services were not initiated in the 30 days; identify what the barriers were; and initiate action to eliminate or alleviate those barriers.*

Indicator 6: Percent of infants and toddlers birth to 3 with IFSPs compared to: A. Other States with similar eligibility definitions, and B. National data.

The Council recommended activities (in italics) for the following two strategies.

- The Lead Agency will strengthen procedures and education of targeted public and private referral sources and follow up (CAPTA / Foster care, Newborn hearing, hospital / high risk, and primary care practitioners) across FFY 2005-06 through 2010-2011.
 - *Emphasis on child care making referrals*
 - *More emphasis on Hospitals, NICUs making referrals.*
 - *Increase efforts at major population areas of the state.*
- The Lead Agency will strengthen the operational efficiency of the System to identify and serve children with special needs across FFY 2005-06 through 2010-2011.
 - *With Empowerment-funded programs*
 - *With Family Practitioners*

Indicator 8: Percent of all children exiting Part C who received timely transition planning to support the child's transition to preschool and other appropriate community services by their third birthday including: A. IFSPs with transition steps and services; B. Notification to LEA, if child potentially eligible for Part B; and C. Transition conference, if child potentially eligible for Part B.

The Council recommended the following two activities (in italics), emphasizing the need for good communication:

- *The Lead Agency will provide communication link through data collection system, maximizing use of technology (IMS).* Rationale: Part C system can obtain names of children at transition age so Part B system should have same info technology on that side. This needs to be aligned between Part C & B systems. Allow Regional Grantees to run reports for LEA timely notification.
- *The Lead Agency will build accountability for transition compliance into annual job performance reviews of service coordinator.*

* This activity fulfills one of the Council's duties: Assist the Lead and Signatory agencies in the effective implementation of the statewide system.